We claim:

- A process for preparing graft copolymers of polyvinyl esters by polymerization of 5
 - at least one vinyl ester of aliphatic C1-C24-carboxylic a) acids in the presence of
- polyethers which are solid at room temperature and have 10 the general formula I

$$R^{1}$$
 $\left((R^{2} - 0)_{u} + (R^{3} - \phi)_{v} + (R^{4} - 0)_{w} + (R^{5} - 0)_{x} + (R^{6} - 0)_{y} + (R^{7} - 0)_{z} \right)_{n} = R^{8}$

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in which the variables have the following meaning, independently of one another:

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- hydrogen, $C_1-C_{24}-alkyl$, $R^9-C(=0)-$, $R^9-NH-C(=0)-$, R^1 polyalcohol residue;
- hydrogen, $C_1-C_2/4-alkyl$, $R^9-C(=0)-$, $R^9-NH-C(=0)-$;

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 R^2 to R^7

$$-(CH_2)_2-$$
, $-(CH_2)_4-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CHOR^{10}-CH_2-$;

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- R⁹ $C_1-C_{24}-alkyl;$
- R^{10} hydrogen, $C_1-C_{24}-a_1^{\dagger}kyl$, $R^9-C(=0)-;$

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- -C(=0)-O-, -C(=0)-B-C(=0)-O-, Α -C (=0) -NH-B-NH-C (=0) -O-;
- -(CH₂)_t-, arylene, optionally substituted; В

- 1 to 8;
- 40
- 0 to 500;
- 1 to 12;

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1 to 5000;

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v 0 to 5000;

w = 0 to 5000;

x 1 to 5000;

v 0 to 500a;

z 0 to 5000

c) and, where appropriate, at least one other monomer

using a free-radical initiator system, wherein liquid polyalkylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator system.

- A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solution of the free-radical initiator system is added continuously throughout the polymerization reaction time.
- 3. A process as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, wherein liquid polyethylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator at room temperature.
- 4. The use of the polymers prepared by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 as coating agents, binders and/or film-forming excipients for pharmaceutical dosage forms.
- 5. The use of the polymers prepared by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 as additives to cosmetic, hygienic and/or dermatological preparations.
- A cosmetic, dermatological, hygienic or pharmaceutial dosage form comprising at least one of the polymers prepared by a process as claimed in claims 1 to 3 in addition to conventional excipients.
 - 7. Graft copolymers of polywinyl esters obtainable by polymerization of
 - a) at least one vinyl ester of aliphatic C_1 - C_{24} -carboxylic acids in the presence of
 - b) polyethers which are solid at room temperature and have the general formula I

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in which the variables have the following meaning, independently of one another:

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R¹ hydrogen, C_1-C_{24} -alkyl; $R^9-C(=0)$ -, $R^9-NH-C(=0)$ -, polyalcohol residue;

 R^8 hydrogen, $C_1-C_{24}-alkyl$, $R^9-C(=0)-$, $R^9-NH-C(=0)-$;

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 $-(CH_2)_2-$, $-(CH_2)_3-$, $-(CH_2)_4-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CHOR^{10}-CH_2-$;

 R^9 $C_1-C_{24}-alkyl;$

 \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^7

 R^{10} hydrogen, $C_1-C_{24}-alkyl$, $R^9-C(=0)-$;

A -C(=0)-O-, -C(=0)-B-C(=0)-O-, -C(=0)-NH-B-NH-C(=0)-O-;

B $-(CH_2)_t$ -, arylene, optionally substituted;

n 1 to 8;

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s 0 to 500;

t 1 to 12;

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u 1 to 5000;

v 0 to 5000;

w 0 to 5000;

40

x 1 to 5000;

y 0 to 5000;

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0 to 5000

c) and, where appropriate, at least one other monomer

Substanta 5

using a free-radical initiator system, wherein liquid polyalkylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator system.

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